IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claim 97, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please AMEND the claims as indicated below:

1-91. (CANCELED)

92. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a first compensator compensating wavelength dispersion, the first compensator having a constant wavelength dispersion characteristic over a plurality of wavelengths; and

a second compensator compensating wavelength dispersion after wavelength dispersion is compensated by the first compensator, wherein the first and second compensators together compensate for wavelength dispersion dependent on a respective wavelength of a transmission line,

wherein the first compensator is a virtually imaged phased array (VIPA) dispersion compensator.

93. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus as in claim 92, further comprising:

a housing which houses, and thereby encloses, both the first and second compensators.

94. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus as in claim 92, further comprising:

a substrate on which both the first and second compensators are fixed.

95. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus as in claim 93, further comprising:

a substrate on which both the first and second compensators are fixed.

96. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus as in claim 92, wherein the respective wavelength is the wavelength of a respective signal light included in a wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) light transmitted through the transmission line and including a plurality of signal lights at different wavelength multiplexed together.

97. (CANCELED)

98. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

first means for compensating wavelength dispersion, the first means having a constant wavelength dispersion characteristic over a plurality of wavelengths; and

second means for compensating wavelength dispersion after wavelength dispersion is

compensated by the first means, wherein the first and second means together compensate for wavelength dispersion dependent on a respective wavelength of a transmission line,

wherein the first means is a virtually imaged phased array (VIPA) dispersion compensator.

99. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus as in claim 98, further comprising:

a housing which houses, and thereby encloses, both the first means and the second ~~compensators~~means.

100. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus comprising:

a first compensator compensating for wavelength dispersion, the first compensator having a constant wavelength dispersion characteristic over a plurality of wavelengths; and

a second compensator compensating for dispersion slope over the plurality of wavelengths after the compensation by the first compensator.

101. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus as in claim 100, further comprising:

a housing which houses, and thereby encloses, both the first and second compensators.

102. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus as in claim 100, further comprising:

a substrate on which both the first and second compensators are fixed.

103. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus as in claim 101, further comprising:

a substrate on which both the first and second compensators are fixed.

104. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus as in claim 100, wherein the first and second compensators together compensate for dispersion of a respective wavelength of a respective signal light included in a wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) light transmitted through a transmission line and including a plurality of signal lights at different wavelength multiplexed together.

105. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus as in claim 100, wherein the first compensator is a virtually imaged phased array (VIPA) dispersion compensator.